**Historic, archived document**

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.

1.9422
Fr8F94
Reserve

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
PRODUCTION AND MARKETING ADMINISTRATION
WASHINGTON, 25, D. C.

April 26, 1946

FRUIT AND VEGETABLE BRANCH
ADMINISTRATIVE LETTER No. 9

LIBRARY
CURRENT SERIAL RECORD
OCT 21 1946
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

TO THE PERSONNEL OF THE FRUIT AND VEGETABLE BRANCH:

I wish at this moment it were possible for me to meet and talk with all of you personally, but as this would be difficult I hope that I can convey to you through this Branch letter my deep desire to render to the Branch and every member of it real and constructive service.

In assuming my duties as Director of the Fruit and Vegetable Branch, I sincerely want you to know that I do not have any preconceived ideas that I can successfully carry out my responsibilities without the benefit of your counsel, experience, and judgment.

The history of this Branch has been excellent. This has not been due to efforts of its various administrative heads alone but to the combined work of the entire staff.

In accepting the position of your Branch Director, I realize that I am assuming a responsibility to the fruit and vegetable industry that can be met in full only by our united efforts.

I have many limitations, some of which I understand and I am striving to work out; others I am depending on you to call to my attention by frank outspoken constructive criticism.

I wish to pledge to the Branch and its entire personnel my wholehearted efforts to support all policies that are constructive and beneficial to the fruit and vegetable industry.

On the basis of the Branch's past record, I feel confident that if all of us will cooperate to discharge our duties competently and unselfishly, we will be able to perform the service to industry which is our mutual responsibility.

S. R. Smith
Director

## FRESH PRODUCTS STANDARDIZATION AND INSPECTION DIVISION

### OPENING OF FRESH FRUIT AND VEGETABLE INSPECTION OFFICE AT DALLAS, TEXAS

Arrangements have been completed to open a fresh fruit and vegetable destination inspection office at Dallas, Texas on May 6. Mr. William J. Smith of the Chicago office will be in charge at Dallas and his office for the present will be located at room 556 U. S. Terminal Annex, Dallas, 2, Texas. His telephone will be Riverside 1121, extension 96.

### OFFICE NOTES

G. A. Bidelman, Assistant District Supervisor at Chicago is on a supervisory inspection trip from April 17 to 30. He will visit the destination inspection offices at New Orleans, Memphis and St. Louis. He will also spend some time with the shipping point supervisors where inspection work is going on in Louisiana, Mississippi and Tennessee.

### STEAMSHIP INSPECTION WORK AT NEW ORLEANS

During the last few years inspections at New Orleans have been very heavy of fruits and vegetables loaded on boats under the control of the War Shipping Administration. Mr. Fred Hartz, in charge of the New Orleans office, received a letter from the District Food Control representative of the W.S.A. commending the New Orleans inspection service highly for the way the boat work has been handled during the war period, and also indicating that a number of the boat lines have been so well pleased with the service that they intend to continue with it after the W.S.A. control is eliminated. Mr. Hartz is to be commended for so organizing and handling the work at New Orleans that the boat lines there are continuing the service.

### GRADING AND INSPECTION DEMONSTRATIONS AT THE QUARTERMASTER SUBSISTENCE SCHOOL AT CHICAGO, ILL.

Messrs. D. C. Beeler, M. A. Russell, and one or two others of the Chicago inspection office gave several grade demonstrations and inspection discussions before the members of the Quartermaster Subsistence School at Chicago. Col. Charles S. Lawrence, Commanding Officer of the School, wrote commending the men highly for the service rendered to the School.

### RETIREMENT OF STEPHEN N. GREEN

Mr. Stephen N. Green, who was located at our Great Lakes Naval Training Station inspection office retired about March 1, after more than 24 years in the fresh fruit and vegetable inspection service.

E. E. Conklin, Chief

## REGULATORY DIVISION

### PERSONNEL TRANSFERS

Mr. Roy Cahoon is being transferred from the Washington office to the Chicago office. It is contemplated that he will take over the territory covered by Brice Edwards during the past few years. Mr. Edwards will transfer to the Winter Haven office and take over the duties formerly performed by Mr. Albritton.

### FIELD MEN TO VISIT THE WASHINGTON OFFICE

Messrs. Dykes, Lensen, Shoemaker and Edwards will spend the week of May 26 in the Washington office during which period matters pertaining to administration of the Perishable Agricultural Commodities Act, Produce Agency Act and Export Apple and Pear Act will be discussed.

T. C. Curry, In Charge

## PROCESSED PRODUCTS STANDARDIZATION AND INSPECTION DIVISION

### U.S. STANDARDS

Due to the administrative changes in the names of the various organizations within the Department, such as Office of Marketing Service, Office of Distribution, and Production and Marketing Administration, it has been necessary to include a foot-note on many United States Standards to indicate that the standards are a "re-issue" but that "no change is made in the context." In these instances the only change is in the name of the administration and the standards are the same as previously issued.

Since we have noticed an excessive number of orders (and quantities) for "re-issues" of United States Standards this explanation may serve to point out that is is not necessary to order supplies of our standards when the change involves merely the name of the administration.

The Western Weighing and Inspection Bureau, Room 460, Union Station, Chicago, Illinois, has requested 200 copies of each U. S. Standard for frozen foods, to be used by their inspectors. This Bureau is operated by the member railroads, and performs inspections for members on shipments of fruits and vegetables arriving at the large terminal points in the territory in which the Bureau operates.

Among the numerous requests for U. S. Standards for processed fruits and vegetables are those being received from popular womens' magazines, including a set for the reference library of McCall's.

DEMONSTRATIONS

The following grading demonstrations - not previously reported - have been presented:

| Date | Group | Address | Inspector Participating |
|---|---|---|---|
| 4/12/46 | Consumer's Problems Class University of Washington | Seattle, Wash. | Mary Nielsen |
| 4/12/46 | Home Economics Students St. James High School | St. James, La. | Earl F. Burk |
| 4/9/46 | American Assoc. of Univ. Women Southeastern Louisiana College | Hammond, La. | Earl F. Burk |
| 4/25/46 | Home Economics Class University of Maryland | College Park, Md. | Elinor T. Linderer<br>Lyda M. Sutherland |
| 2/25/46 | Business Administration Class Southeastern Louisiana College | Hammond, La. | Earl F. Burk<br>Helen P. Bright |

FEDERAL SPECIFICATION

Federal Specification Z-A-636b, for Apricots; Evaporated (or Dried), effective February 7, 1946, and which became mandatory for use by Federal agencies, has just been received from the Government Printing Office. The context follows the latest issue of the United States Standards and copies of the Federal Specification will be sent to each office as soon as supplies are received.

MEMBER OF WASHINGTON STAFF HONORED

Miss Lyda M. Sutherland, a member of the Washington staff of the Processed Products Standardization and Inspection Division, has been elected Vice-President of the D. C. alumni chapter of Phi Upsilon Omicron, an honorary home economics fraternity, and will represent that organization at the National Conference in June, and will also attend the American Home Economics Association's annual meeting in Cleveland.

F. L. Southerland, Chief

## MARKET NEWS DIVISION

### SHIPPING POINT NOTES AS OF APRIL 26

Hammond, Louisiana, strawberry auction prices have dropped well below ceilings with indications that if prices decline much farther a large portion of the remainder of the crop will go to processors. - - - Hot weather, deteriorating quality, and heavy competition from the Salinas-Watsonville area have practically closed out the Arionza lettuce deal. - - - First pool car of Imperial Valley cantaloups is expected to move about May 10. - - Potato shipments from Florida now very heavy, about half finished; Alabama and central California light but increasing, heavy by May 5-10; South Carolina begin week of May 1, volume by May 13; North Carolina begin week of May 13, volume by week of May 20. - - - First car Georgia peaches expected around May 3; season about week later than last year. - - - Onion shipments still heavy in Texas, market weaker, demand slowing down; center of deal moving from Laredo to Corpus Christi section over this week end. - - - Rio Grande Valley tomato deal becoming active, market declining but still high with prices approximately same as for the same period last year, $3.50-4.00 per lug. - - - Mississippi cabbage running small account dry weather; total output may be reduced. - - - The Florida orange market has been "red hot" with heavy demand from both fresh shippers and processors.

### FIELD MEN FURNISH CROP NOTES:

All men on shipping deals should furnish the Washington office with comments on progress of their deal or unusual happenings in the shipping areas regularly so all may keep better informed on conditions in other areas. By making them brief they will be more usable and will consume little time to prepare and send in.

### CALIFORNIA BORDER CROSSINGS

The State of California in its report of crossing activities during 1945 shows interstate truck movement, both going and coming, for California border stations of 15,061 carloads of fresh fruits and vegetables. Fifty six percent originiated in California and 23 percent in Arizona. Of the 15,061 carloads 10,844 were vegetables and melons, 125 nuts, 2,348 citrus fruits, 6 berries, 2,639 deciduous fruits and grapes, and 91 avocadoes. Inspection stations are maintained at all border crossing points.

### HOW MUCH WE EAT

How much this country can eat, when people are working, and have money, is shown in these retail food store sales, with the statistics coming from food industry sources, according to the Western Canner and Packer:

1945 - $18,584,000,000; 1944 - $17,870,000,000;
1943 - 16,620,000,000; 1942 - 15,300,000,000;
1941 - 12,800,000,000; 1940 - 11,350,000,000;
1939 - 10,870,000,000; 1938 - 10,287,000,000;
1937 - 10,603,000,000; 1936 - 10,026,000,000;
1935 - 9,201,000,000; 1933 - 7,781,000,000; (depression low)
1929 - 12,514,000,000; (peak to that time)

No breakdown by types of food is shown. These should be considered as trade and not official estimates.

CODE CHANGES

Effective May 6 on the D (Shipments and Receipts) Page change DOQ to read Argentina instead of "Other Imports". On the WA-WI (Miscellaneous) page insert AH to mean Fla. Belles. On the D page the spelling of Chili should be changed to Chile since this is the recognized form.

TEMPORARY FIELD STATIONS

| Location | In Charge | Commodity | Probable Opening & Closing Dates |
|---|---|---|---|
| Belle Glade, Fla. LW West Lake Road | D.R.Hall | Vegetables | Nov.1-May 15 |
| Corpus Christi, Texas | E.E.Paulson | Onions | Apr.29-May 25 |
| Crystal Springs, Miss. | B.I.Burrell | Vegetables | Apr.24-June 25 |
| Foley, Alabama | H. Jack Jones | Potatoes | Apr.22-May 25 |
| Hammond, La. Post Office Bldg. | R.G.Risser | Straws | Mar.25-May 1 |
| Hastings, Fla. LW Power & Light Bldg. | J.M.Roberts | Potatoes | Apr.1-May 10 |
| Lakeland, Fla. LW Box 191 | H.F. Willson | Citrus | Oct.7-May 17 |
| Plant City, Fla. Box 449 | R.M.Peterson | Straws & Misc.vegs | Jan.16-May 10 |
| Presque Isle, Me. Federal Building | J.C.Keller | Potatoes | Sept.10-May 3 |
| Sanford, Fla. LW State Farmers Market | C.D.Sherman | Celery & vegs. | Jan.2-May 31 |
| Weslaco, Tex. LW Post Office Bldg. | R.E.Winfrey | Citrus & vegs. | Oct.18-May 31 |
| CLOSED | | | |
| Laredo, Tex. | E.E.Paulson | Onions | Apr.8-Apr.26 |
| OPENING | | | |
| Charleston, S. C. | C.B.Miller | Potatoes & vegs. | May 8-June 7 |

LW - Indicates on leased wire.

C. D. Schoolcraft, Chief

## VEGETABLE DIVISION

### PERSONNEL NOTES

O. G. Strauss is on an extended trip through the South, including Texas and the Gulf and Southeastern States, conferring with Branch representatives, growers, shippers, and others in regard to the vegetable situation with principal emphasis on the type of sweetpotato program that will be needed in 1946.

V. H. Nicholson expects to be in Chicago during the week of April 29 when he will meet with representatives of the Branch and members of the vegetable industry, including onion set growers and shippers, to discuss industry problems affecting the Branch's marketing program.

### AUDIT REPORTS SUBSIDY PROGRAMS

The Office of Audit has a staff in the field making audits of Processors' subsidy records and administrative and operational proceedure is being developed to eliminate duplication of work by the field and Washington Divisions in connection with action indicated necessary by such audit reports. The proceedure will also clearify the operating functions of the Fiscal Branch and Office of Audit in respect to these operations

L. S. Fenn, Chief